

WHAT IS CLAIMED IS:

1. A connector (10), comprising:

an engageable element (11; 60) that is fittable into a receptacle (53) on a mating connector (50) and into which at least one terminal fitting (62) is mountable, and a retainer (34) mountable into an accommodating portion (22), wherein:

the retainer (34) and the engageable element (11; 60) are configured for insertion into the receptacle (53) when the retainer (34) is accommodated properly in the accommodating portion (22), whereas the retainer (34) contacts an opening edge (57B) of the receptacle (53) when the retainer (34) is left improperly inserted into the accommodating portion (22), and

the retainer (34) includes at least one guide (38) with a surface (38A) aligned for sliding contact with the opening edge (57B) of the receptacle (53) to guide the retainer (34) into the accommodating portion (22) during insertion into the receptacle (53), and at least one restriction (39) formed with a wall (39A) to substantially face an opening-end surface (57A) of the receptacle (53).

2. The connector of claim 1, wherein the wall (39A) is formed between a starting end (a) and a terminus end (b) of the slanted surface (38A) with respect to the fitting direction (FD) of the engageable element (11; 60) and inwardly from the slanted surfaces (38A).

3. The connector of claim 1, wherein the vertical wall (39A) prevents the fitting operation by contacting the opening-end surface (57A) of the receptacle (53) when the guide (38) is squashed during the fitting operation into the receptacle (53).

4. The connector of claim 1, wherein the accommodating portion (22) is formed by recessing a side surface of the engageable element (11; 60).

5. The connector of claim 1, wherein the engageable element (11; 60) includes a plurality of auxiliary connectors (60) and a holder (11) into which the auxiliary connectors (60) are mountable and in one side surface of which the accommodating portion (22) is formed.

6. The connector of claim 5, wherein the retainer (34) has guiding walls (36) at opposite widthwise sides of a main portion (35) thereof for sliding contact with side surfaces (14) of the holder (11), the retainer (34) having a U-shape and crossing over the holder (11) so that the retainer (34) locks the auxiliary connectors (60) inserted to a proper depth in the holder (11) when the retainer (34) is properly accommodated into the accommodating portion (22).

7. The connector of claim 6, each guiding wall (36) has an extending portion (37) extending toward the receptacle (53) and projecting outward from the accommodating portion (22) with the retainer (34) left only partly inserted, and the guiding portion (38) is formed on the extending portion (37).

8. The connector of claim 7, wherein at least one guiding groove (56) is formed in an inner surface of the receptacle (53) of the mating connector (50) and extends substantially in the fitting direction (56), at least one guiding rib (27) projecting from a side surface of the holder (11) for engagement with guiding groove (56).

9. The connector of claim 8, wherein the retainer (34) locks the auxiliary connectors (60) inserted to a proper depth in the holder (11) when the retainer (34) is accommodated properly into the accommodating portion (22), and at least one protruding piece (35C) on an outer surface of the retainer (34) as to become substantially flush with the guiding rib (27), the guiding portion (38) being formed at a leading end of the protruding piece (35C) with respect to the fitting direction (FD).

10. A connector assembly comprising the connector (10) of claim 1 and a mating connector (50) connectable therewith.